

From: Michael S. Scherotter
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to voice my concern with proposed remedies to the Microsoft antitrust decision. One of the ways in which Microsoft has prevented other OS companies from establishing any marketshare is by prohibiting multi-boot configurations on OEM machines. Companies like HP, Compaq, Sony, Micron, or any other manufacturer cannot install a Microsoft OS along with a non-Microsoft OS because it will void their contract with Microsoft. A user must installing a boot loader which will allow other operating systems to boot instead of their Microsoft OS. BeOS and Linux are operating systems that requires a user-installed boot loader. One of the reasons that they cannot compete successfully with Microsoft is that the hardware manufacturer cannot install the boot loader and the alternative operating systems even if the user is willing to pay for it.

These alternative operating systems provide a market that is not being addressed by Microsoft:

BeOS is a robust multimedia platform

Linux is an open-source platform

As a remedy for Microsoft's antitrust behavior, I suggest that Microsoft should not be allowed to make any contracts prohibiting alternative boot loaders and operating systems installed by OEMs.

In addition I suggest that the settlement prohibit Microsoft to make agreements with hardware manufacturers that insures that hardware will only work on Microsoft Operating Systems.

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